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Security Council

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Letter dated 4 August 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is my pleasure to enclose for your attention a copy of the letter that the Acting President of the National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoners of War Affairs, Dr. Ibrahim Majed Al-Shaheen, addressed to Dr. Tarek Najem Abdullah, Chief of Staff of H.E. the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq on 21 July 2009, regarding the issue of the remains of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdullah **Al-Murad**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoner of War Affairs

No. 9/RL/2009

Date: 21 July 2009

Sir,

I had the pleasure to receive your letter dated 15 July 2009. We are honoured to correspond with our brothers in Iraq and value the good faith that exists between us. With regard to the question of prisoners of war and missing Kuwaiti nationals, we hope that that humanitarian issue will be resolved and end the suffering that those prisoners' families have been undergoing for some 20 years. While we appreciate the Prime Minister's efforts, we also understand the prisoners' families' insistence that action should urgently be taken in the field in order to locate mass graves. The perpetrators of those despicable crimes intentionally covered their traces, and Iraqi eyewitnesses are the only source of information on the location of such graves. After so many years, it is absolutely imperative to obtain that information from those witnesses while it is possible. As members of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee, Iraq and Kuwait must coordinate their efforts with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other Commission members. We must also mention the commendable efforts being made by Ambassador Gennady Tarasov. As we prepare to take part in the meeting of the Technical Committee scheduled for 4 August 2009, we are hopeful that real progress will be made towards identifying the sites of mass graves.

Allow me to express my personal gratitude to His Excellency the Prime Minister, to you, and to all our brothers at the Ministry of Human Rights, and my wishes for your continued good health and for the security, stability and peace of the Republic of Iraq.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim Majid **Shahin**
Acting President

Mr. Tariq Najm Abdullah
Director, Office of the Prime Minister, Republic of Iraq